

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 915

By Marrero B

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charlie Vergos of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charlie Vergos; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vergos was a prominent restaurateur, philanthropist, and distinguished businessman who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, as owner of the iconic Rendezvous restaurant, Mr. Vergos took an old coal chute from the wall of his smoky basement tavern in downtown Memphis and created barbecue history; and

WHEREAS, the son of Greek immigrants, Mr. Vergos heroically and honorably served in the United States Army during World War II in the European and Pacific Theatres; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, he returned from overseas, married his beloved wife, Tasia Vergos, and opened his tavern and sandwich shop in 1948; and

WHEREAS, through his exemplary efforts and strong work ethic, Charlie Vergos fulfilled his life-long dream, as Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous restaurant is a name associated with award-winning food, world renowned charcoal ribs, and exceptional service; and

WHEREAS, two decades later, Mr. Vergos moved his legendary establishment to its present location in the alley at 52 S. Second Street, where it became a famous haunt of politicians, business people, and guests from the Peabody Hotel; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Vergo's Rendezvous, an internationally-acclaimed barbecue restaurant, has drawn a long list of high-profile guests, including, among others, President George W. Bush, President Bill Clinton, Bill Cosby, Justin Timberlake, and Mick Jagger; and

WHEREAS, a father to the City of Memphis, his stalwart dedication to the revitalization of downtown Memphis has left an imprint on the city that will remain for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, always grateful to the citizens of Memphis for their dedicated support of the Rendezvous restaurant, Mr. Vergos' philanthropy and generosity knew no bounds; and

WHEREAS, touching the lives of thousands through his altruism and benevolence, he participated in numerous philanthropic endeavors, including Zoo Rendezvous on behalf of the Memphis Zoo and Rendezvous at the Dixon benefitting Dixon Gallery and Gardens; each year, he famously donated 20,000 daffodils to the Memphis Park Commission, which can be seen along the parkways in Midtown and in several of the city parks; and

WHEREAS, a man of tremendous faith, Mr. Vergos was an active and devout member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Vergos enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Tasia Vergos; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud and loving father of Nick Vergos, John Vergos, and Tina Jennings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vergos will be sorely missed by his brothers, Pete Vergos, George Vergos, and Nick Vergos; and

WHEREAS, he will also be fondly remembered by his eight grandchildren and a host of family, treasured friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vergos leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charlie Vergos, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Charlie Vergos.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.